

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1364**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ting**

February 22, 2013

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An act to amend Section 69435 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1364, as introduced, Ting. Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program.

Existing law, the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program (Cal Grant Program), establishes the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement Awards, the California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards, the Cal Grant C Awards, and the Cal Grant T Awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements and maximum levels for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. Existing law requires that a Cal Grant B award for access costs, as defined, is not to exceed \$1,551 annually. Existing law provides that this amount may be adjusted in the annual Budget Act.

This bill would require that the maximum amount of the Cal Grant B access award be annually adjusted, commencing with the 2014–15 academic year, to include the percentage increase, if any, in California per capita personal income, as specified. In the event of a decrease in California per capita personal income, no adjustment would be made to the maximum Cal Grant B access award under this bill. This bill would delete the provision authorizing the adjustment of this amount in the annual Budget Act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 69435 of the Education Code is amended  
2     to read:  
3     69435. (a) (1) A Cal Grant B award shall be used only for  
4     tuition, student fees, and access costs in a for-credit instructional  
5     program that is not less than one academic year in length.  
6     (2) The commission, or a qualifying institution pursuant to  
7     Article 8 (commencing with Section 69450), shall award access  
8     grants in a student's first academic year. In subsequent years, the  
9     award shall include an additional amount to pay tuition or fees, or  
10    both, to attend college at a public or private four-year college or  
11    university or other qualifying institution for all Cal Grant B awards  
12    pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 66021.2.  
13    In no event shall the total award in any year exceed the applicant's  
14    calculated financial need.  
15    (3) Not more than 2 percent of new Cal Grant B recipients  
16    enrolling for the first time in an institution of postsecondary  
17    education shall be eligible for payments for tuition or fees, or both,  
18    in their first academic year of attendance. The commission shall  
19    adopt regulations specifying the criteria used to determine which  
20    applicants, if any, receive both tuition and fees plus the access  
21    grant in the first year of enrollment. Priority shall be given to  
22    students with the lowest expected family contribution pursuant to  
23    Section 69432.7 and the highest level of academic merit.  
24    (b) An award for access costs under this article shall be in an  
25    annual amount not to exceed one thousand five hundred fifty-one  
26    dollars (\$1,551), *as annually adjusted, commencing with the*  
27    *2014–15 academic year, to include the percentage increase, if*  
28    *any, in California per capita personal income as calculated by the*  
29    *Department of Finance. In the event that California per capita*  
30    *personal income decreases in any year, no adjustment to the*  
31    *maximum allowable award amount will be made pursuant to this*  
32    *subdivision. This amount may be adjusted in the annual Budget*  
33    *Act.*

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